

FBLA – PBL Fact Sheet

FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA-PHI BETA LAMBDA is a non-profit career and technical student organization interested in or preparing for careers in business or business education. It is composed of three divisions: FBLA at the middle and secondary level, PBL at the post-secondary and college level, and Professional. There are approximately 235,000 active members in over 6,200 chartered chapters across the nation.

FBLA gives students the chance to learn, first hand, about the business community as they prepare to become a part of it by developing competencies. They learn to lead and participate actively in group discussions, preside at meetings and conferences, work effectively within teams, and engage in practical problem-solving and decision-making.

Chapter advisers and advisory committees—composed of school officials, appropriate businesspersons and other community representatives—help students become more aware of the intricacies of the American free enterprise system, global competition and interdependence, and how it affects their lives in the present and future.

Projects involving FBLA-PBL members include professional, civic, service, career development, and social awareness activities. State advisers help to coordinate the numerous chapter activities. They, in turn, report to the national association headquarters in Reston, Virginia, outside Washington, D.C. Headed by the President and Chief Executive Officer (Jean M. Buckley), the national staff works to help chapters and advisers and acts as liaison among student organizations, professional and business organizations, and government agencies.

Since competition is recognized as a major part of the free enterprise system, FBLA-PBL sponsors a National Leadership Conference (NLC) which begins with competition at the local, regional, and state levels. Inter- and intra-chapter warm-ups prepare members for the NLC, which emphasizes individual and team effort with awards for those who excel in both.

FBLA-PBL is financed almost entirely by dues and local chapter fundraising. Donations and grants also play an important part.

Publications supplied include Tomorrow's Business Leader, a student-oriented magazine; FBLA Adviser's Hotline, a newsletter for advisers; program packets with suggested projects to be developed at the local level; and an organizational manual. In addition, billboards, posters and brochures are included in supplemental materials provided by the national office.

The FBLA concept was developed in 1937 by Hamden L. Forkner of Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City. In 1940 FBLA became a part of the national Council for Business Education. The first chapter, in Johnson City, Tennessee, began in 1942.

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